

In San Luis Obispo, Cambria GRAMMAR School was built to handle 200 students. They now have eight portables in its playground space with 345 students. Students who are kindergartners, the youngest of all, have been moved to a nearby middle school and they are housed in a small portable with a small fenced-in playground.

I spent 20 years as a school nurse in the Santa Barbara School District, and I have seen firsthand the damage that deteriorating classrooms have. The students cannot thrive academically if they are learning in overcrowded and crumbling buildings. This is the most crucial time in their lives for learning and we have an opportunity to do something about this.

Madam Speaker, I supported the America's Better Classrooms Act, a strong bipartisan measure, 225 cosponsors. It would have provided approximately \$25 billion in interest-free funds to State and local governments so that school construction and modernization projects could occur. Such funding would help schools like Peabody, Oakley and Cambria Grammar Schools to make improvements in classrooms, playgrounds and would help reduce class sizes.

I believe here in Congress we must set our standards high to ensure that all children have the right start. All children deserve to have safe, clean, modern school environments to be part of each day.

So, Madam Speaker, this 106th Congress is coming to an end, but our students have a lifetime of learning ahead. They need our help now. I believe we can still act and must act to pass comprehensive school construction legislation in this session of Congress.

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#### INDIANA LOSING TWO GREAT REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, Indiana is losing two great Representatives when this session ends: the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH).

I think I can speak for all Members when I say that this is not only a loss for Indiana, it is a loss for this body. Both of them are intelligent, hard working Members of Congress. Both of them have remained true to their principles, and both are dedicated to upholding the honor of this House and to the American people.

I had the pleasure of serving with the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He has the distinction, and I know of no other Member that can make this claim, of attending every single meeting of that committee. But when one looks at where

the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) came from and what he accomplished before he came to Congress, that is not surprising.

When one compares the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH), there are a lot of comparisons. Both of them are down-to-earth people. They are common guys. They are non-presumptuous. They are easy to meet, courteous.

It may come as some surprise to the Members of this body that both of them, in their educational backgrounds, they excel. They do not try to impress one with their IQ or their intelligence.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) graduated with distinction from Indiana University and his J.D. degree, Cum Laude, from Indiana University.

Now, I know the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) better. I knew Ruthie. My wife Linda and I knew their daughter Ellie, who was born in 1997. But it was not until sometime later that I discovered that he came from a small farming town, Kendallville, in Indiana, and that he worked in a foundry to save money for his college education. That university was Yale University. He is a Yale University graduate.

He worked in the White House under Ronald Reagan. He was asked by this House to chair the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction. Now, on that subcommittee, I think one of his greatest accomplishments was spearheading efforts to strengthen laws that protect the environment and health and safety.

At the same time, he did away with a lot of silly, unnecessary, down right stupid regulations. One required every paving crew to work in a heavy shirt and long pants on Indiana roads, even if it were over 100 degrees. He was able to work to eliminate laws like that.

Whether it is the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE), former Eagle Scout, going back to work in Indiana or the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH), hopefully the next Governor of Indiana, they are going to be missed in this body.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BILL ARCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) is recognized for 60 min-

utes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to rise in really celebration of a career of probably one of the most respected Members of this great body, and I am speaking of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) came to this House back in 1970 after having served a short term in the Texas House of Representatives. But I think he really came into his own in 1994 when he became the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means after serving for several years as the Ranking Republican Member.

If there is one person in this body that I really try to as much as I possibly can to pattern myself after, my conduct and how I vote and how I view things, it would be the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER). He has such a high moral standard that he sticks to himself.

His ability to listen to the Members and his ability of inclusion on the Committee on Ways and Means, it is sort of a rare thing that one sees that there is a coming together, because we see tax policy different, the two political parties.

But under his leadership, he was a key player in getting the 1997 balanced budget with tax relief signed into law. That tax cut was the first tax cut in 16 years. That shows his ability to work with the administration.

I know that, on many occasions, he has gone down and has met with President Clinton on a number of things, some of which bear fruit and others that have not.

I would like to just tick off a few of the accomplishments that the Committee on Ways and Means has done under his leadership. He shifted the burden of proof off the taxpayer and onto the Internal Revenue Service. That does not sound like much. But under our form of law, the taxpayer had the burden of proof, which just does not seem to be fair under our sense of justice.

Under the leadership of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), we changed that. We gave taxpayers 74 new rights and protections in their dealings with the Internal Revenue Service. We created an independent oversight agency to oversee the Internal Revenue Service.

We gave new protections for innocent spouses. This is where, particularly in a case of a divorce, where the Internal Revenue Service would go back after, usually, the wife who just signed the return that her husband put in front of her; and they would go after her for things that were in the tax return that were stated wrong, fraudulently or in error. Now they have new rights, which is something that was very important.

It prevents the IRS from seizing homes without a court order. It seems peculiar that the IRS could have done this without court orders, but now they have to have a court order; and that is the right thing to do.